

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Surface-modified effect pigments based on flake-form substrates,
which are sheathed with one or more layers of immobilised LCST and/or UCST polymer having layer thicknesses of 2 – 500 nm,
wherein the LCST polymer is a polyalkylene oxide compound, olefinically modified PEO-PPO copolymer, polymethyl vinyl ether, poly-N-vinylcaprolactam, ethyl(hydroxyethyl)cellulose, poly(N-isopropylacrylamide) or polysiloxane, or a mixture thereof, or a polysiloxane modified with olefinic groups, and the UCST polymer is a polystyrene, polystyrene copolymer or polyethylene oxide copolymer, or a mixture thereof,
wherein said surface-modified effect pigments based on flake-form substrates are holographic pigments, pearlescent pigments, interference pigments, multilayered pigments, metal-effect pigments, goniochromatic pigments and/or BiOCl pigments,
which surface-modified effect pigments are prepared by applying the LCST and/or UCST polymer to the surface of the effect pigments by precipitation in water and/or an organic solvent, and
irreversibly immobilizing said LCST and/or UCST polymer on the surface of the effect pigments.

2-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) Surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1, wherein the polymer sheath additionally comprises one or more nanoparticles, polymerizable monomers, plasticizers, antioxidants, carbon-black particles, microtitanium or a mixture thereof.

7. (Previously Presented) Surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 6, wherein the polymer sheath comprises 0.001 to 150% by weight of one or more additives, based on the polymer.

8. (Cancelled)
9. (Previously Presented) Surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1, wherein the effect pigments are based on natural or synthetic mica, Al_2O_3 flakes, TiO_2 flakes, SiO_2 flakes, Fe_2O_3 flakes, glass flakes, ceramic flakes or graphite flakes.
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Currently Amended) Surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1, wherein one or more additives are added to the polymer.
12. (Previously Presented) A surface coating, water-borne coating, powder coating, paint, printing ink, security printing ink, plastic article, concrete, cosmetic composition, agricultural sheeting, tarpaulin, laser marking on a paper or plastic article, pigment composition or dry preparation, comprising surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1.
13. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1.
14. (Withdrawn) A method for light protection or corrosion protection comprising applying surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1 to an article that is to be protected from light or corrosion.
15. (Previously Presented) Surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1, which are sheathed with one or more layers of immobilised UCST polymer.
16. (Currently Amended) Surface-modified effect pigments based on flake-form substrates, which are sheathed with one or more layers of immobilised LCST and/or UCST polymer, wherein said surface-modified effect pigments based on flake-form substrates are holographic pigments, pearlescent pigments, interference pigments, multilayered pigments, metal-effect pigments, goniochromatic pigments and/or BiOCl pigments, which surface-modified effect pigments are prepared by applying the LCST and/or

UCST polymer to the pigment surface by precipitation by controlling the temperature in water and/or in an organic solvent followed by irreversibly immobilizing the LCST and/or UCST polymer on the surface of the pigment.

17. (Previously Presented) Surface-modified effect pigments according to claim 16, where the immobilization of the LCST and/or UCST polymer on the surface of the pigment is achieved by the cross-linking of the polymer.

18. (Previously Presented) Surface-modified effect pigments based on flake-form substrates, which are sheathed with one or more layers of immobilised LCST and/or UCST polymer such that the LCST and/or UCST polymer does not form a chemical bond with the effect pigments, wherein said surface-modified effect pigments based on flake-form substrates are holographic pigments, pearlescent pigments, interference pigments, multilayered pigments, metal-effect pigments, goniochromatic pigments and/or BiOCl pigments.

19. (Previously Presented) Surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1, wherein the precipitation is achieved by
dissolving the LCST polymer in the water and/or organic solvent at a temperature below the lower critical solution temperature to obtain a solution,
mixing the effect pigments with the solution to obtain a mixture,
raising the temperature of the mixture to or above the lower critical solution temperature, whereby the LCST polymer deposits onto the surface of the effect pigments.

20. (Previously Presented) Surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1, wherein the precipitation is achieved by
dissolving the UCST polymer in the water and/or organic solvent at a temperature above the upper critical solution temperature to obtain a solution,
mixing the effect pigments with the solution to obtain a mixture,
lowering the temperature of the mixture to or below the lower critical solution temperature, whereby the UCST polymer deposits onto the surface of the effect pigments.

21. (Previously Presented) Surface-modified effect pigments according to

claim 1, where the immobilization of the LCST and/or UCST polymer on the surface of the pigment is achieved by the cross-linking of the polymer.

22. (New) Surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1, wherein the polymer sheath has layer thicknesses of 2 – 10 nm.

23. (New) Surface-modified effect pigments based on flake-form substrates,

which are sheathed with one or more layers of immobilised LCST and/or UCST polymer,

wherein the UCST polymer is a polystyrene, polystyrene copolymer or polyethylene oxide copolymer, or a mixture thereof, and the LCST polymer is a polysiloxane modified with olefinic groups,

wherein said surface-modified effect pigments based on flake-form substrates are holographic pigments, pearlescent pigments, interference pigments, multilayered pigments, metal-effect pigments, goniochromatic pigments and/or BiOCl pigments,

which surface-modified effect pigments are prepared by applying the LCST and/or UCST polymer to the surface of the effect pigments by precipitation in water and/or an organic solvent, and

irreversibly immobilizing said LCST and/or UCST polymer on the surface of the effect pigments.

24. (New) Surface-modified effect pigments according to claim 23, where the immobilization of the LCST and/or UCST polymer on the surface of the pigment is achieved by the cross-linking of the polymer.

25. (New) Surface-modified effect pigments according to claim 23, which are sheathed with one or more layers of immobilised UCST polymer.

26. (New) Surface-modified effect pigments according to claim 23, which are sheathed with one or more layers of immobilised LCST polymer.